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Henry Hastings Hall to W S Hall, 10 October 1877

Oct 10th 1877

My dear brother

I duly received your enclosure on account of Alice's brothers, tell them I will write them by an early opportunity, but have only time now for a brief note to you. I beg you will consider the pound, as one of the *three* you previously sent, returned. I am very much concerned about your position, and pray that prospects may improve. Alice is very unwell from over-stuffing, and we shall have to be more particular about the quantity she eats and drinks. I believe she would kill herself unless kept in check: eating appears to be her only real pleasure, and it is a pity her weakly constitution will not allow her to *stuff* with impunity. I am milking three cows, we seldom have more than one, two of them I have to rope head and foot, but they are all good milkers and we make a nice bit of butter. Generally we have to buy butter all the season, when we have any money to pay for it, and when we haven't, we do as they do in France. I had the largest crop of potatoes in that I have ever had, but the weather all through September up to the present has been so sultry and dry, that they are ruined and all my neighbours likewise. In all my experience I never knew anything like the present weather. Suttons with a dairy of 60 or 70 cows are making very little more butter than the family consume. There is either no feed, or where there is any the sun has scorched it up. We are all well Thank God, but I not as strong as a year or two back, I think I carried my last bag of flour from the cart to the house a week or two ago, it was as much as I could manage. Pity my boy is not a little older to take my place. I hope Hannah and your family are well, also old Ander and his belongings. I had a letter from Frank a short time ago. We have a letter from Mrs Arthur Heppingstone, she appears to be very comfortably settled. With love to you all in which my wife and boy would join, only that one is darning stockings and the other fast asleep.

Your affecte brother,

H H Hall